GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:805
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Soil Degradation
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav;Mishra Shri Anoop

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that large tracts of fertile land suffer from soil erosion by wind and water and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken/programmes undertaken to treat and restore fertility of soils properly;

(c) whether endless Government policies are unable to curb nearly 30 per cent of India''s gross agriculture output loss almost every year due to soil degradation and poor land management and improper irrigation facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-2010), out of total geographical area of 328.73 million hectare about 120.43 million hectare (37%) is affected by various kinds of land degradation which also includes about 94.87 million hectare of areas affected by water and wind erosion across the country. The process of soil formation and erosion is a natural process too, occurring simultaneously to maintain equilibrium in natural eco-system. However, with a view to prevent land degradation and restoring soil fertility, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources is implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which is subsumed from 2015-16 under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) as PMKSY(Watershed Development). Besides, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Soil Health Card Scheme for soil test based judicious and integrated nutrient management to restore the soil fertility.

(c) & (d): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare has taken proactive policy measures and intensified implementation of various schemes/programmes/missions, namely; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for sustaining and enhancing productivity of agricultural land. As a result of various technological interventions/ policy measures under these programmes/schemes, food grain production of the country has increased from 244.49 million tonnes (2010-11) to 252.22 million tonnes (2015-16) − 4th advance estimate from almost the same cropped area in the country.

****